



FEMA

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CDP Superintendent's Message

The Certainty of Uncertainty

We are experiencing a period of great uncertainty about things we have great certainty about. That sounds like a paradox I know. But as an example, we know with certainty by looking at the financial events happening around the globe impacting numerous countries there is far reaching pressure on countries to address huge deficits or face collapse of their financial systems. We know in our country with certainty that August is quickly approaching and we too, as a nation, must address the pressing question of how to handle the debt ceiling dilemma facing us. However, we have great uncertainty about what the outcome of that decision will mean to our appropriations in either the near term or in future years.



We know with certainty that this year has been a year of great demand on first responders and first receivers as they have been called upon by their jurisdictions to care for their citizens who have experienced record breaking tornadoes and floods claiming precious lives and costing our nation billions of dollars in damages. We know with certainty that because of the training many of the response community has received from the CDP that we have made a significant and positive difference in their ability to provide the type of response required of them. However, we have great uncertainty about what the next disaster will be, what region of the country it will occur, how many citizens will be affected, or how many responders will be needed to answer the call.

Finally, we know with certainty that what we have done at the CDP to prepare our nation's responders has been immensely successful. We know with certainty by their experiences and what they have reported back to us in their own words they have realized great value in the training they have received at the CDP when called upon to respond. However, we have great uncertainty moving forward of what the future of training, based on our understanding of our past methods, models, and programs, and processes will look like in the future.

What we do know with absolute certainty in these times of uncertainty is we will maintain our commitment to and focus on the first responders and first receivers that depend on us to provide them with the skills and competencies they require to make good on their promise to help their citizens during dark hours. We know with absolute certainty that by putting the best interests and needs of our customers first we will assuredly make the right decisions as we cut through the fog of uncertainty that distorts our view of the future moving forward. While we may be certain of the uncertainty facing the CDP, this uncertainty alone will not discourage or dissuade us from confidently providing the best possible training we can muster; whatever resources we can bring to bear for the benefit of our customers; the nation's responders. The achievement of this singular goal, I am indeed most certain.

FEMA Administrator Visits CDP Observes Mass Casualty Response Training

FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate visited the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP), June 15. This was the administrator's first visit to the CDP, providing him an opportunity to observe responders from across the nation training in a realistic, mass-casualty environment.

Administrator Fugate visited each CDP training site and received a better understanding of how the specialized and realistic training delivered at the campus helps meet the needs of emergency responders in the United States and territories. His tour included stops at the Chemical, Ordnance, Biological, and Radiological (COBRA) Training Facility and the Noble Training Facility (NTF). "I believe the big takeaway is that the COBRA Training Facility and the Noble Training Facility are unique assets in this nation that nobody else has," Administrator Fugate said. According to Administrator Fugate, "Another benefit is bringing multi-disciplines together in an environment to do work that they hopefully will never face unless in a crisis—but give them a chance here to practice and literally risk failure."

The Administrator added, "The goal is to train realistically—the way we would operate in our communities during a real-world crisis. Not many places in the world offer this kind of training, but here at the CDP first responders, who do this every day, get a chance to practice before the next disaster."

The COBRA is the nation's only toxic chemical training facility for emergency responders. It features civilian training exercises in a true toxic environment using chemical agents, providing critical response knowledge and skills to first responders. In 2007, the CDP welcomed the NTF as an additional training venue for the campus. It serves as the only hospital in the U.S. dedicated solely to training.

During the administrator's day-long visit he took part in several informative briefings with CDP officials and also met local civic leaders to discuss the FEMA and CDP mission. Administrator Fugate stated before leaving that first responders are going to make the difference during a disaster response and CDP training is the most realistic in the United States.

"[The CDP] is one place you go to make your career in first response, because the training you get, you will not get anywhere else."



FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate is shown a positive reading for chemical agents at the CDP's COBRA Training Facility.



Who We Are

The Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) is the only Congressionally-chartered Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) training center for civilians. The CDP specializes in providing resident and non-resident advanced hands-on, all-hazards training for America's state, local, and tribal emergency responders in their mission to prevent, deter, respond to, and recover from terrorist acts and other catastrophic events, especially those involving WMD or hazardous materials. The CDP's cutting-edge training incorporates the nation's only toxic chemical agent training facility for civilian responders and a fully scoped hospital used for training mass casualty incident management for healthcare and public health professionals. Training at the CDP is fully funded by DHS. When appropriate, the CDP can train other federal government, foreign, and private responders on a reimbursable basis. The CDP's training programs offer a selection of more than 50 courses, a large on-site billeting and dining capacity, and a fully certified, multi-disciplined instructional staff with an average of 19 years of experience in their respective emergency response fields. Newsletter articles are written by CDP External Affairs staff unless otherwise noted. Contents of the CDP Focus do not imply endorsement by the CDP, NTED, FEMA, DHS or the federal government. Items appearing in this newsletter are considered of potential interest to CDP staff and responder students. Content suggestions should be directed to the External Affairs Office at 256-847-2212. Learn more about the CDP at <http://cdp.dhs.gov>. ~

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Y E M E R G E N C Y G L J W K L T
T W N C D D W T T L A B I R T A Z
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I O M H M H F C N K X R L X M K R
C D G R Y W P Q T R O V I V R U S

www.WordSearchMaker.com

Attack	Enviommental	Local	Shelter
Biological	Fire	Operation	State
Casualty	Hazard	Pandenic	Survivor
Chemical	Hospital	Radiological	Train
Emergency	Incident	Response	Tribal

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Emergency

To report a **Medical Emergency** when students are present and training is in progress:

9-256.-231-.0263

Alternate Contact Numbers:

Bldg. 61/Lodging Area – 9-256-689-7795

Noble TF/500 Area – 9-256-689-7808

COBRATF – 9-256-689-7791

Outside of normal business hours, or when training is not in progress:

9-911



Course Integration Brings Together Response Components

Photos By Phillip Hudgins, SAIC



A mock explosion at a high school football game kicks off the Integrated Exercise that combined three CDP courses.

The unique hands-on training that responders receive at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) went a step further recently thanks to the center's first-ever integrated exercise. The June 15 scenario brought together three courses for a capstone exercise that combined mass casualty response with other components of an emergency. A total of 131 students participated in the course integration, creating the largest exercise since the CDP opened in 1998.

"We have never conducted an exercise of this magnitude," said Rick Dickson, assistant director for training delivery. "Timing of the courses plays a large role in the success and ability to perform an exercise like this. It was a change from the normal, not only for the students, but for the CDP's training department. We were able to bring three courses together in a final exercise, consisting of different responsibilities and multiple disciplines that provided a real-world response experience."

In the past individual courses were provided an exercise scenario specific to each class, while the additional emergency response components typically involved in a scenario were notionalized. The integrated exercise removed this artificiality.

The scenarios started with students from the Emergency Medical Operations (EMO) course responding to a simulated explosion at a high school football game. Students from the Hospital Emergency Response Training (HERT) course decontaminated mock victims outside the hospital's emergency department after



Students attending the Emergency Medical Operations course are first on the mock scene to treat the injured prior to hospital transport.

ambulances transported mock victims from the incident scene. The Healthcare Leadership (HCL) course activated the hospital command center and managed the surge of patients.

"It was great to see how EMO would interact with HERT, and how HERT communicated with the hospital (HCL)," said Chad Cossey, a disaster response coordinator from California attending HERT. "I gained a sense of what potential problems could occur and how the three groups could work together in the future, regardless of where we live. I got a good picture of how we can work together as a team and communicate."

"Three days earlier we were three separate courses, combined with different disciplines, and unfamiliar with everyone," said Justin Jensen, a fire fighter and EMT from Idaho. "Three days later you put the same groups together and we communicate, and work together as a team."

Caitlin Ahern said it is difficult to focus on training at her own hospital in Massachusetts, where she works as the hazardous materials coordinator, because real patients must remain the priority for the staff. She enjoyed the CDP atmosphere, which provided a fully functional hospital dedicated solely to training.

"You can focus on the roles and response process," said Ahern. "The integrated exercise stressed me out. In my opinion, it was effective and I feel I am taking back experience that will make a difference in my hospital. This was realistic and reflective of a true mass casualty incident involving multiple response agencies."

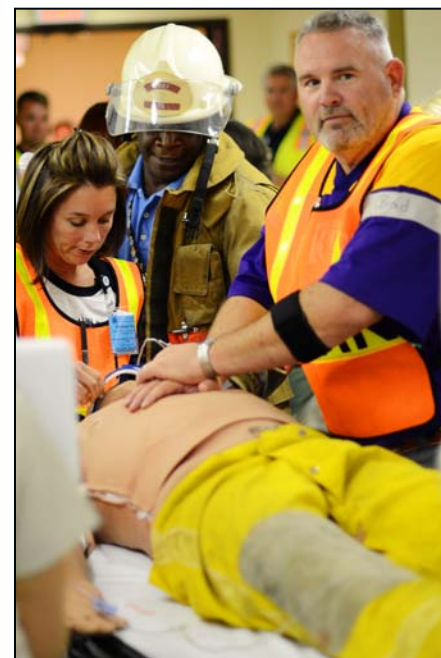
The CDP hopes to combine end-of-course exercises once a quarter and ultimately include more courses, including a variety of disciplines other than healthcare. The current goal is to recognize required planning, logistics, and manpower to fully provide a realistic training experience.

Current renovations to the CDP's medical training facility will put future exercises on hold until January. However, remodeling will focus on the Emergency Department and include the addition of a non-ambulatory patient entrance, two HazMat patient isolation rooms, nurse triage stations and vital signs collection points. The renovation will convert the existing ED into a modern, state-of-the-art treatment area, designed to enhance student's experiences and add greater realism. Once renovations are complete a more consistent training schedule involving the integration of courses during the final exercises will be added to the calendar.

"Integrating our courses is another example of the CDP's commitment to the first responder's training experience," Dickson said. "We strive to enhance our training environment and realistic training is common in student feedback. Combining these three courses in an end-of-course exercise demonstrates reality, strengthens student confidence, and most of all prepares them for what could happen when they return home."



Students attending the Hospital Emergency Response Training course receive and decontaminate survivors before hospital admittance.



Hospital workers receive patients from emergency personnel during the CDP's integrated exercise.



Students attending the CDP's Radiological Emergency Response Operations Course (RERO) measure the radiation exposure rate they have encountered during a simulated accident. CDP courses use live radiation sources, and focus on the response and management of a radiological event. More advanced-level training is designed to improve skills and center on response plans and procedures for complex incidents such as a terrorist or mass casualty event.

Radiological Operations Training Improves Response

The recent earthquakes and subsequent radiological impacts in Japan have increased the awareness and interest in how communities respond to radioactive incidents. Despite the recent increased attention on radiological hazards, training for such a potential incident has been happening at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) for the past four years.

The CDP, in coordination with the Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program (REPP) office of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), offers five courses focusing on radiological preparedness in communities across the United States.

The radiological courses prepare first responders to deal with all types of radiological incidents, according to Bernice Zaidel, CDP assistant director for curriculum development and evaluation. Depending on the course, students learn basic fundamentals to advanced techniques. Each course ties in the response to a potential mass casualty event involving radiological material.

"CDP radiological training provides a safe environment where first responders learn how to protect themselves, their equipment, and the general public if a radiological event were to occur in their community," Zaidel said. "Our training is designed to advance what they already know, and provide solid guidance to improve current plans, processes, and practices."

Denise White, senior health and safety specialist for the Bureau of Radiation Control, located in Orlando, Fla., recently completed the Radiological Emergency Response Operations (RERO) course at the CDP.

"There are so many reasons to take this training," White said. "The training

was as real as it gets. I feel better prepared, and confident in my ability to respond. A person in this field does not completely understand all the threats until they attend this training—a fantastic experience."

Many first responders live in the vicinity, between 10 and 50 miles, of a nuclear power plant. Responders in these areas are required to remain current, rehearse emergency plans, and attend training and exercises mandated by FEMA and REPP, Zaidel said.

"This training prepares emergency responders to know the radiological hazards that face their communities" Zaidel said. "With training, responders know how best to protect themselves from the exposure and contamination risk of a radiological event."

The radiological courses provided by the CDP are performance-based and students focus on the response and management of a radiological event. More advanced-level training is designed to improve skills and center on response plans and procedures for complex incidents such as a terrorist or mass casualty event.

"We try to make the scenarios and equipment available, as realistic as possible for the students," said Candice Gilliland, CDP radiological training course manager. "We utilize live radiation sources as well as electronic equipment to simulate radiation contamination and exposure. The CDP provides different types of equipment from the most basic to cutting edge. It is important to vary the instruments students use, because not all jurisdictions are the same."



NTF Renovations Offer Modern Emergency Department

In 2007, when the Noble Training Facility (NTF) joined the CDP's training venues, it was touted as the nation's only hospital dedicated solely to healthcare training. Now this unique training venue is about to get an upgrade.

Renovations will begin July 2011 to expand and update the existing Emergency Department (ED). The project is expected to be completed by late October. The renovations will make the ED more consistent with most modern-day emergency departments.

According to Mick Castillo, CDP technology integration coordinator, the upgrades will match Noble TF's ED with the nationally recognized training for which the CDP is known.

"Our healthcare training programs owe a good deal of their success to the realistic venues in which they operate," Castillo said. "Venue considerations are of great significance and not simply because of the obvious aesthetic improvements. We've grown to appreciate the weight our emergency responder students place on realism in an advanced hands-on training program."

Renovations include the addition of a non-ambulatory patient entrance, two

HazMat patient isolation rooms, nurse triage stations and vital signs collection points. The renovation will convert the existing ED into a modern, state-of-the-art treatment area, designed to enhance student's experiences and add greater realism.

"The CDP's hospital emergency department will mirror real-world emergency departments," said Rick Dickson, assistant director for training delivery. "This renovation demonstrates our commitment to the learner's training experience. These enhancements will better serve the healthcare communities educational needs. We are excited about the renovation; specifically the realism it will bring to our scenarios."

NTF Fact:

The former U.S. Army Noble Hospital was converted into a training site for health and medical education in disasters and mass casualty events in 1999. Years later, and after several changes in operational responsibility, the full potential of this facility was realized and the official name changed

from the Noble Training Center to the Noble Training Facility (NTF). The CDP has operated the NTF since 2007, and completely funds all training—to include travel, meals and lodging for state, local, and tribal emergency responders.



Healthcare professionals will notice dramatic changes to the NTF's Emergency Department (ED) by the end of 2011. Major renovations will provide a modern emergency room setting.

CDP Blood Lab Represents Excellence in Audit

The Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) RBC-Cholinesterase Laboratory (blood lab) recently received an outstanding inspection during its annual audit. The CDP's blood lab is responsible for testing all student blood samples who participate in nerve agent training at the Chemical, Ordnance, Biological, and Radiological (COBRA) Training Facility. Students and staff attending a COBRA course have all participated in the early morning blood draw.

The lab collects blood samples as a safety precaution to ensure students and employees are never affected by GB or VX nerve agents. The lab employees conduct a thorough process to draw blood, and spend a significant amount of time testing the samples for any indication of nerve agent exposure. The lab averages between 7,700-8,000 collections and tests a year.

According to Jackie Morgan, Laboratory supervisor, receiving these outstanding results speaks highly of the laboratory staff, and its error free efforts.

"Like every audit it helps you notice your weaknesses and your strengths," said Morgan. "It makes you look at your work from another



Pictures Left to Right: Barbie Howard, Tina Northard, Marilyn Myles, and (center front) Jackie Morgan.

angle and helps you realize where you can improve your practices and where you need to continue doing things the way you have. We all work great together as a team and just try to do our job the best we can. We take a lot of pride in the work we perform here at the CDP."

Anniston Mayor Completes CDP Training



Anniston Mayor Gene Robinson (left) assists in disaster response planning during a simulated Incident Command exercise.

Anniston Mayor Gene Robinson completed a week of training at the CDP June 24. Robinson attended the Incident Command: Capabilities, Planning, and Response Actions for All Hazards (IC) and Hands-On Training for CBRNE Incidents (HOT) courses.

The IC course focuses community planning towards the preparedness effort in response to a terrorist or natural disaster event. Incident

Command shares a focus on the importance of planning, and provides the tools to responders and government officials to draft effective emergency response plans modified to their jurisdiction. "The recent colossal tornado storms across the south and the nation and with Alabama and Missouri in mind, these examples show the recent need for disaster training," said Robinson. "I knew about incident planning and response, but nothing compared to what these classes taught me for preparation of the future."

IC training gives the ability to provide a positive impact to the preparedness efforts in a jurisdiction by sharing the tools to draft effective plans. The 24-hour course culminates with an eight-hour real-time exercise that tests the most seasoned responder.

The Mayor's three-day IC course was combined with the Hands-on-Training (HOT) course. HOT provided the opportunity to experience an environment using GB or VX nerve agent at the CDP's COBRA training facility.

"Be prepared for any scenario that comes," he said. "I feel more confident following the courses I recently completed and have a better understanding of what our first responders do every day and my role to be an effective city leader during a disaster. It is not about you or me, it is about our community. Should a calamity occur I am now much more prepared and confident."



Tornadoes Take Personal Toll on Alabamians



Emily Amberson cleans up tornado debris following the April 27 storms.

Story and Photos courtesy of Emily Amberson, SAIC: On April 27, 2011, I was in Las Vegas for the first time. I was there for a business meeting, so my days were spent participating in work groups and my nights were spent being “wowed” by the city. But on that Wednesday, I spent the afternoon and into the night staring at the computer screen in horror at what was happening back in my home state.

On the following Saturday, as we made our way home, we passed through at least six distinct tornado paths. The sheer scale of the destruction and the number of tornadoes that went through April 27 was just staggering. As we drove back home I made the decision that the next day I would volunteer in Ohatchee, a town only 20 minutes from our house.

On the morning of Sunday, May 1st, I woke up, put on my “outside” clothes, slathered on some sunscreen and bug spray, loaded up my car with donations, and headed out. The small group I joined up with set about clearing limbs, household debris, and construction materials. After about six hours in the sun, it was time to go. When I looked back at where we had been cleaning, it looked about 2 percent better than it had been when we started. Not much, but it was something.

So from that weekend on, I started volunteering to clean-up. I figured that I’m relatively young, not in terrible shape, and very blessed to have a house to go home to at night, so why not give some time to help out. I found an organization called Hands-On Birmingham that was organizing large groups of people (200+) to go into some of the hardest hit areas around the state to volunteer.

The next weekend I went with Hands-On Birmingham to Hackleburg, a small



town in northwest Alabama that was devastated by an EF-5 tornado. The town was just gone. There were a few structures standing, but in many places brick homes had been completely wiped from their foundations, pieces of debris were embedded into trees. We spent time at the home of a woman who had not survived, literally combing through the field behind her house looking for anything that we could give the family. There was nothing bigger than a chair leg left of the house, everything had been pulverized. It was a very emotional experience meeting with the family and hearing about the person they had lost just a week or so earlier.

Following that weekend, I spent two weekends in Pleasant Grove, near Birmingham. The neighborhood where they dropped us off to work in looked like a bomb had gone off. Progress had been made, but it was just overwhelming how much was still to be done. As my very wise group leader said, “This is a marathon, not a sprint.”

These neighborhoods will be dealing with the aftermath of these storms for months, in some cases years. So if you haven’t had a chance to volunteer yet, don’t worry, there is still plenty to do. It also isn’t all about cleaning up debris, they also need help distributing and sorting donations, helping people to fill out forms, and even just to spend time with people.

The amazing part of this whole experience was that whenever I met people who had their homes ripped away, they were surprisingly upbeat. Thankful for what they still had, glad for any help you could give them, and just happy to still be alive. It really puts everything into perspective. While it is dirty, hot, sweaty, and, sometimes, really gross work, I’m glad that I was able to do a small part to help out my neighbors.

And like I said, there is still a need for help. Find a way to volunteer.



Debris shown above cut through anything in its path. The piercing of a tree demonstrates the force of the storms.



(Above) A home in Pleasant Grove destroyed by the April 27 tornadoes.
(Left) The Willow Point neighborhood in Ohatchee lies trampled.



CDP Hits The Road With Careers on Wheels



Students and faculty of the Calhoun County Career Technical Center hosted a week-long event to introduce the county's youth to potential career paths. The event, titled Careers on Wheels, was held April 5-8, and introduced many of the county schools to a variety of professions. The CDP displayed a variety of tools that are used by emergency responders to respond to and recover from hazardous incidents. The CDP also presented a decontamination tent, radiological detection equipment, and one of the most popular items, the Human Patient Simulator (HPS), that portrays a victim. The HPS talks, breathes, and even shows a pulse.

"The CDP is a very impressive organization," said Donna Nash, career tech guidance counselor.

"Each year FEMA has enhanced

the event by actually exhibiting the meaning of the name, 'Careers on Wheels.' This allowed students to connect through displays that were interactive and provided the opportunity to have a hands-on approach at each station. And very important, FEMA's presence and effort allowed the students an opportunity to gain knowledge about different types of humanity careers."



The purpose of the event was to plant a seed for career awareness in the minds of all of the sixth grade students in the Calhoun County School System, and the 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students who attend the Career and Technical Center the opportunity for more career exploration. There was a collaborative effort with local business and industry, community and service organizations, and educators, as well as the programs at the Career Tech Center. Altogether, 22 county businesses and community service organizations participated. This was the second year to offer Career on Wheels, and although the CDP was unable to participate the entire week, they greeted more than 500 Calhoun County students during their day-long display.

Giving Blood Saves Lives in Alabama, Region



Mark Hulsey, CDP facilities specialist, gets set to donate blood during April's quarterly blood drive. The blood drive collected 27 units of blood. According to Evan Duffy, communications manager for Alabama's American Red Cross, the need for blood is an ongoing process. She said donations from Alabamians makes it possible to meet elevated needs, especially in times of disaster, and that blood donated in this region typically goes to others within the state. "While there may be an occasion that a unit of blood collected in Alabama is sent somewhere else almost all of the blood collected in the region stays in the region."

The collection of blood is necessary to treat many diseases and critical trauma patients. Duffy added that stored blood has a shelf life—making quarterly blood drives an important practice. "Because blood cannot be manufactured in a lab or stored for more than 56 days, it is critical that the blood supply remains at a safe and stable level at all times. The only way to achieve that end is through the donations of volunteer blood donors."

The next CDP blood drive is scheduled for July 19, with a goal of 27 donations.

Generosity

These CDP employees were recently recognized for their generosity during last year's Combined Federal Campaign. Pictured (Front Row) left to right: Wendi Feazell, Bruce Greene, Denis Campeau, Peggy Luallen, Kelly Wells, Tawana Hurst, Yvette Lovvorn, and Bliss Morris. (Back Row) left to right: Woody Davis, Rod Pearce, Brent Kent, Tina O'Shields, Mark Hulsey, Kent Davis, Michael Vice, Eddie Morris, Michael Aguilar, and Rick Dickson. These employees were awarded with the Bronze Award (for donations of \$500-\$699), the Silver Award (donations of \$700-\$999), and the Gold Award (donations of \$1,000 and up). This group consisted of nine Bronze, three Silver, and six Gold.





QUALIFICATION DAY

Rounds Down Range



Slow, Steady Squeeze

The firing line is ready. Security officers from Wackenhut Services Incorporated (WSI) pierced their targets during semi-annual weapons qualification. The shooters fire a total of 50 rounds—each worth two points—from the 25, 15, 7, and 5-yard lines. The WSI security officers qualify every six months with a GLOCK .40 caliber weapon.

Qualifying isn't your routine day at the local firing range. It requires determination, concentration, and speed. Each qualifying officer must meet strict timelines and fire certain amounts of rounds at each firing point.

Wackenhut's CDP mission is to protect CDP property and its training sites.

These security officers are the top shooters for the second half of Fiscal Year 2011.



Albert E. Lassiter (CDP)	100
Gregory J. Dempsey (COBRATF)	100
John H. Chance (COBRATF)	100



Family Members Train Together at CDP

It is not unusual for sons or daughters to follow in their parents footsteps when choosing a career path.

But, finding the time to train and train together is a different story.

The Kevek family—fire fighters from Siletz, Oregon, and the Kinsey family—hazardous material technicians from State College, Penn., attended a week of training at the CDP in response to potential hazardous threats.



Daughter and father team Kaitlin and Paul Kevek.

The Keveks, a father and daughter team, have found that training is a cornerstone to their individual preparedness, and believe training influences personal confidence in their ability to respond.

“Training can relate to any hazardous event you face,” said

Paul Kevek, age 51. “The more emergency training we have, the more prepared we are, and the more likely we can apply that training to any event.”

“This was my second trip to the CDP so I asked dad to apply for the course as well,” said Kaitlin Kevek, age 21. “When we return to our fire department he can help me relate to the other fire fighters the information we have learned.”

Another family, the Kinseys, are father and son Pennsylvanians and actually work on the campus of Pennsylvania State University. These hazardous materials technicians have worked together for the past six years, and believe that training is essential to knowledge and preparedness.



Father and son team Hartley and Andrew Kinsey.

“We do a lot together and even attended the same EMT class, to include Search and Rescue training,” said Hartley Kinsey, age 52. “My personal view is that my family’s safety, my friend’s safety, and community’s safety is up to me. The only way to do that is through training, I want to be prepared.”

“There are two types of people—people who are self reliant and people who rely on others,” said Andrew Kinsey, age 27. “If I can do anything to support my community so it can survive in the first 72 hours without outside help, then we have achieved self sustainment. The more we know, the more we are able to help the community get to that point. This was outstanding training.”

All four individuals stressed the need for families to adopt a culture of preparedness and pursue training opportunities that not only help individual families but entire communities.

AL Homeland Security Director Visits CDP

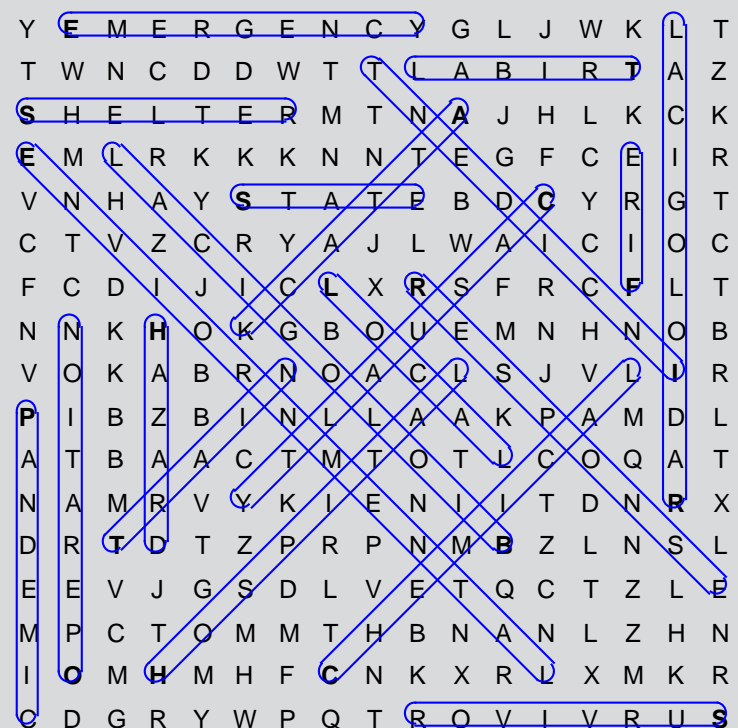


(Right to Left) Alabama Department of Homeland Security Director Spencer Collier, observes a hazardous materials incident response and recovery demonstration at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP). Rick Dickson, CDP assistant director for training delivery, explains how CDP training instills specific skills emergency responders can use to protect themselves and their communities.

The director of Alabama’s Department of Homeland Security visited the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) on June 1. This was Spencer Collier’s first visit to the CDP since he was appointed Alabama’s homeland security director in December 2010. Collier received a first-hand look at CDP operations and training venues during his visit.

“From what I’ve seen this is training that is unmatched anywhere and seems to be [front line] training at a time when all state, local, and tribal need this advanced preparation—I’m actually blown away by it,” Collier said. “It makes me proud to be the Homeland Security Advisor in Alabama, knowing that this is going on in our state.”

Preparedness Challenge



Do you have a story idea? The CDP External Affairs Office wants input for your newsletter.
E-mail: pao@cdpemail.dhs.gov or call 256-847-2212



Employee Association's 5K / Family Day Great Success

Sunny skies, a nice morning breeze, and the smell of hamburgers on the grill set the stage for the CDP Employee Association (CDP EA) first annual 5K Fun Run/Mini Trot and CDP Family Day June 18. After several weeks of organizing, planners put things in motion with an early start from marking the 5K course and registering last minute runners to setting up games, tents, and grill for Family Day.

The 5K had 60 participants ready to pound pavement. Runners came from all over and ranged in age from 11-years-old to age 71—medals were provided in seven age categories. Ten children, under the age of 12, enjoyed the Mini Trot.

A portion of the proceeds from the races were donated to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Alabama and Family Links. Big Brothers Big Sisters received a \$1,000 check and Family Links received \$500, for making our communities and region better for families and

children.

After catching a breath from the race, more than 150 CDP employees and family members came together for the CDP's first Family Day. The barbeque was held at the McClellan Soccer Fields, and brought together good food and entertainment, including games for all ages and great music.

"The entire event, from the morning 5K to the Family Day, could not have been better," said Rick Dickson, CDP Employee Association president. "The 5K and Mini Trot set the bar high—the organizers could not have done a better job. The picnic also went off without a hitch, families joined together for great food, games, music and social time. We hope to build on this event with other family type events that offer the great staff of the CDP opportunities to join together in social activities." He added, thanks to all the volunteers, we could not have done this without you!"

The CDP EA was not alone in planning the successful event. Partner employee associations made up of volunteers representing each contractor assisted in organizing the event.

"A lot of hard work by many members of the federal and contractor staffs paid off," said Meredith Strain, president of the partner employee association. "This started as an idea, and was a fairly large undertaking. We did it as a team and made a lasting impression with our community and co-workers. The race had a great turnout for our first time, but the Family Day seemed to be a huge success. Everyone had smiles and enjoyed it all." She added, "I thought the donation that was made to the two local charities was one of the many highlights of the day."

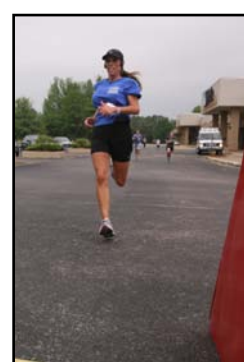
The CDP Employee Association and Partner Employee Associations are planning a Fall Festival for October. More information about the event will be announced at a later date.



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